

**REMARKS**

Claims 60, 67 and 69 have been amended. Claims 62-65, 70-75, 79 and 82-96 have been canceled.

The Examiner has objected to applicants' claims 67 and 96 because of certain informalities. Applicants have amended applicants' claims 67 to recite --A method-- instead of the "The method", as suggested by the Examiner and has canceled claim 96. These changes have obviated the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 60, 62-65, 67 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner has argued that in independent claims 60, 67 and 69 the limitation "wherein said display control displaying such as the management items included in the icon are not displayed, in a case where the order received or the orders placed are not in existence or display the icon" is unclear in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language.

In order to obviate the Examiner's rejection, applicants have amended claims 60, 67 and 69 as above set forth to clarify the above claim language. Applicants' claims, as amended, are thus now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicants' invention, in compliance with the provisions of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has also rejected applicants' claims 67 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner has argued that applicants' method claims 67 and 79 recite means plus function language ("display means"), which the Examiner states is not appropriate language in a method claim.

In order to overcome this rejection, applicants have deleted the phrascology "display means" from claim 67 and have deleted claim 69. Applicants' claims are thus now in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §101.

The Examiner has further rejected applicants' claims 60, 62-65, 67, 69-70, 79 and 82-96 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Peterson, et al. patent (US 6,324,522) taken in view of the Wiecha patent (US 5,870,717). Applicants have amended applicants' claims and, with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 60, 67 and 69 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants independent claim 67 recites a system for managing orders received from a first shop and orders placed with a second shop in which a communication means communicates data indicating statuses of orders received, and orders placed. A display control means controls display of a combination of a first group of management items, and data indicating a status of the first group of management items, included in a first icon which is for discriminating the orders received, or a second group of management items and data indicating a status of the second group of management items, included in a second icon which is for discriminating the orders placed.

In particular, the display control means controls displaying such as the first group of management items included in the first icon and the data indicating the status of the first group of management items included in the first icon, are not displayed, in case where the orders received is not existence, and displays the first icon. Additionally, the display control means controls displaying such as the second group of management items included in the second icon and the data indicating the status of the second group of management items included in the second icon,

are not displayed, in case where the orders placed is not existence, and displays the second icon. Applicant's claims 67 and 69 and, in particular, the display control step and display control module have been similarly amended.

The aforesaid features of applicant's amended claims 60, 67 and 69 and, in particular, the features of the recited display control means, step and module, are illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9 of applicants' drawings and discussed in the specification at page 37, lines 20-25. According to the invention, as now claimed, the "display control means (step, module)" controls displaying of a combination of management items and data indicating a status of the management items in accordance with the communicating data which is processed by the communication means (step, module). The communicating data is data for judging an existence of orders (orders received alone, or orders placed alone).

For example, in FIG. 8, a first icon (801) for discriminating orders received includes a first group of management items ("EXPECTED", "ORDERS DETERMINED (804a)", "DELAYED", "DIVIDED ORDERS", "ORDERS MODIFIED", "INSPECTION IN PROGRESS" and "ACCEPTANCE"). In the case where the order received data is in existence, the "display control means (step, module)" controls displaying of the combination of the first group of management items included in the first icon (801) and data (803-809) indicating a status of the first group of management items.

In case where the order received data is not existence, the "display control means (step, module)" does not display the first group of management items included in the first icon (801) and the data (803-809) indicating the status of the first group of management items (see FIG. 9: FIG. 9 shows an opposite relation with orders received and orders placed as compared to FIG. 8). In this case, the first icon (801; shown in FIG. 9 as 901) for discriminating the orders received,

is, however, displayed.

On the other hand, in FIG. 9, the second icon (811) for discriminating orders placed includes a second group of management items ("ORDERS DETERMINED (904a)", "DELAYED", "DIVIDED ORDERS", "ORDERS MODIFIED", "INSPECTION IN PROGRESS" and "ACCEPTANCE"). In case where the order placed data is in existence, the "display control means (step, module)" controls displaying of the combination of the second group of management items included in the second icon (811) and the data (904-909) indicating the status of the second group of management items.

In case where the order placed data is not in existence, the "display control means (step, module)" does not display the second group of management items included in the second icon (811) and the data (904-909) indicating the status of the second group of management items (see FIG. 8). The second icon (811) for discriminating the orders placed, is, however, displayed.

The above constructions of applicants' amended claims 60, 67 and 69 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. Looking first at the Peterson, et al. patent, this patent discloses a system for industrial maintenance repair and operation (MRO) for parts and supplies. In this system, orders which a user has already placed to vendors can be checked by an Order Status Function. The contents of the processing shown by FIGS. 14, 15 and 18 for this function are limited only to the processing for the user placed orders to the vendors. The Peterson, et al. patent thus does not determine whether (a) orders are received and placed, or (b) orders are received, or (c) orders are placed, and thus does not describe a manner of performing display control according to such determination.

Accordingly, the Peterson, et al. patent does not teach or suggest the changing of a display based on orders received or orders placed. Therefore, the Peterson, et al. patent does not teach or

suggest the claimed display control means (step, module) of applicants' claims. The cited Weicha patent also fails to teach or suggest same.

More particularly, the Wiecha patent discloses a system for purchasing goods using an electronic catalog constituted on a computer network. The electronic catalog displays various goods as well as usual catalog informational magazines on the computer screen. A buyer can select some goods which should be ordered, from the display of the electronic catalog. Vendors send acknowledgements and a Status Message to the purchase requirement of the buyer. A processing status based on the purchase requirement is updated and checked subsequently.

In Wiecha patent, the display controlling is executed in accordance with an order by the users' requirement. For example, column 10, lines 39-44, of the Wiecha patent describe the display controlling for updating of a current status of POs or purchase requests.

However, the Wiecha patent fails to teach or suggest a change of a display based on orders received or orders placed. In particular, the Wiecha patent does not control displaying a combination of first and second groups of the management items and the data indicating the status of the first and second groups of management items in accordance with judging the existences of data of orders received and orders placed. The Weicha patent thus also fails to teach or suggest the display control means (step, module) of the subject claims.

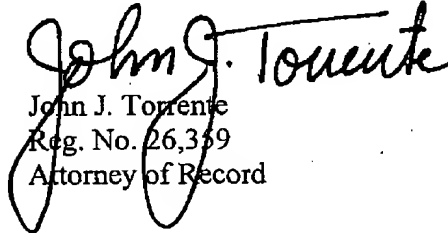
Accordingly, applicants' amended independent claims 60, 67 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the combination of the Peterson, et al. and the Weicha patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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